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DEAN, DONALD J. (New York State Department of Health); LIEBERMAN, JAMES; ALBRECHT, ROBERT M.; ARNSTEIN, PAUL; BAER, GEORGE M.; and GOODRICH, WILLIAM B.: *Psittacosis in man and birds, Public Health Reports, Vol. 79, February 1964, pp. 101-106.*

In 1955 a survey for psittacosis was conducted in commercial parakeet populations fed unmedicated feed (2,778 birds), of 2,677 purchasers of parakeets and their households, and of 49 persons exposed to the same birds at the retail stores of origin. Psittacosis *Bedsonia* was isolated from 19 of 37 dead birds submitted by the stores and by purchasers. Although psittacosis was presumably underdiagnosed, three cases were diagnosed by clinical and serologic evidence in 49 persons exposed to birds at work in retail stores and six among the estimated 8,566 persons at risk in the households of bird purchasers.

The widespread use of medicated feed for the elimination or control of psittacosis in parakeets prompted a reevaluation in 1962. During a 4-month period, 2,890 birds were received by 33 stores. Psittacosis *Bedsonia* was not demonstrated in film preparations from 139 birds either dead on arrival or dying after receipt; attempts to isolate psittacosis *Bedsonia* by mouse inoculation tests also failed. The results suggest that, provided antibiotic-resistant strains do not develop, the risk to man of contracting psittacosis from the species studied is reduced when treatment of birds is adequate. In view of the negative results in birds, no further studies in man were undertaken.

SCHNURRENBERGER, PAUL R. (Illinois Department of Public Health), BECK, JOHN R., and PEDEN, DAVID: *Skunk rabies in Ohio. Public Health Reports, Vol. 79, February 1964, pp. 161-166.*

Skunk rabies reached epizootic proportions in Ohio during the spring of 1962, when 256 cases were reported during a 21-week period. The Ohio Department of Health Laboratories examined 502 skunk heads for rabies during the year; 62 percent were positive.

Most commonly observed symptoms of the rabid skunks were lack of scenting, incoordination, and either aggressiveness or friendliness. Most were seen wandering about during daylight hours. Dogs were exposed more commonly than man or other domestic animals.

Control teams composed of health and wildlife personnel conducted local skunk

population reduction programs. Techniques used were gassing of dens with carbon monoxide cartridges and poisoning with eggs containing strychnine.

Campaigns were carried out in six counties with no accidental poisonings of persons or domestic animals. The only animals killed in large numbers were skunks, opossums, and raccoons. The incidence of skunk rabies in the immediate areas was drastically reduced following the programs. The reduction was greater than expected, based on the 5-year mean and the incidence in contiguous counties.

The nature of a paper, not its importance or significance, determines whether a synopsis is printed. See "Information for Contributors" on next page.

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